Pesticides in fruits and vegetables

4080. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruits and vegetables available in Delhi markets contain pesticides, bacteria and metals which are injurious to health;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the adulteration in fruits and vegetables; and

(c) the arrangements made for making available good quality fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Monitoring Study of Pesticide residues and heavy metals in vegetables available in Delhi market has been carried out by the all Indian Network Project on Pesticide Residues, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi.

A total of 54 samples of various vegetables (bhindi, palak, tomato, parwal, brinjal, cabbage) were collected from Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Azadpur, New Delhi and analysed for the possible residue of pesticides and heavy metals, during the period of June 2006 to April 2007. Out of the 54 samples, only in two samples of palak and one sample each of cabbage and brinjal, residues of pesticide cholrpyrifos were detected and the residues were below Maximum Residue Limit (0.2 ppm). However, in rest of the 50 samples, no pesticide residues were detected. In the 48 samples of aforesaid vegetables analysed for presence of heavy metals, no arsenic compound was detected and level of Lead and Cadmium were found below permissible level.

25 samples of various fruits and vegetables were lifted and analysed by the Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, during the period 2005 and 2006. None of the samples were found to be contaminated with fungus and bacteria.